

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Specification

Applicants request the entry of the changes in the specification requested above. Applicants have revised the "Cross-References to Related Applications" to include the U.S. Serial Number for the U.S. non-provisional utility priority application filed on October 10, 2003. This serial number was not yet available on the filing date of the present application. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments made to the specification.

Applicants submit herewith the Sequence Listing, pages 1-51, to include as a sequence listing as part of this Application, along with an electronic copy (diskette) and a Statement in Support of Filing and Submissions in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Applicants wish to enter the Sequence Listing into the specification by replacing the originally filed Sequence Listing at pages 123-191 and to renumber, if necessary, the pages containing the claims and abstract. As noted in the Statement submitted herewith, no new matter has been added by virtue of the amendment made to the specification.

II. Filing Date and Serial Number of the Application and Request for Corrected Filing Receipt

The present application was filed on October 11, 2003 via Express Mail (Label No. EV 342613515 US), as shown by the Certificate of Express Mail (37 C.F.R. §1.10) and by the postmark on the Customer Copy of the Express Mail Label. Copies of the Certificate and the Label are enclosed with the Request for Corrected Filing Receipt.

On October 23, 2003, the return postcard for the filing of the application was received. The sticker on the return postcard listed U.S.S.N. 10/684,364 and a filing date of October 10, 2003. A copy of the postcard is enclosed with the Request for Corrected Filing Receipt.

On February 12, 2004, Applicants used U.S.S.N. 10/684,364 to file an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) for the present application.

On the Official Filing Receipt, however, the U.S. Serial Number is listed as 10/683,346 and the filing date is still listed as October 10, 2003.

A telephone conference with the Initial Patent Examination Division confirmed that U.S.S.N. 10/683,346 is the correct U.S. Serial Number for the present application. Applicants were instructed to submit a copy of the Certificate of Express Mailing and a copy of the postmark for correction of the filing receipt. As noted above, copies of these items are enclosed herewith with the Request for Corrected Filing Receipt.

Applicants also request the entry of the U.S. Serial Number for the priority U.S. utility application. Applicants have revised the "Cross-References to Related Applications" to include the U.S. Serial Number for the U.S. non-provisional utility priority application filed on October 10, 2003. This serial number was not yet available on the filing date of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that this information be added to the filing receipt. The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 10/684,230.

Applicants respectfully request correction of the Official Filing Receipt and confirmation of the serial number, filing date, and priority claim serial number.

III. Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Due to the discrepancy in the U.S. Serial Number, as outlined above, Applicants have submitted herewith a copy of the IDS filed February 12, 2004. Applicants note that the IDS was filed prior to a first Office Action on the case and submit that no fee was due.

CONCLUSION

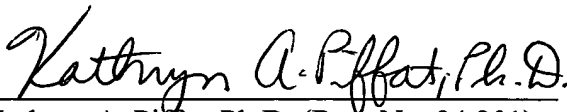
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that all outstanding rejections have been addressed by this submission and that all the claims are in condition for allowance. If discussion of any amendment or remark made herein would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

Applicants hereby request a one-month (1-month) extension of time for the Amendment and accompanying materials. Although it is not believed that any additional fee (in addition to the fee concurrently submitted) is required to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 14, 2004


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